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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 11 Sept. 1951

SUBJECT Example of Staff Training Problem of the
Yugoslav Air Force
25X1A

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1. Orders for a simulated air attack against enemy positions are issued to the regiments by their respective division command headquarters. The regulations are forwarded to the regiment commander by mail, and contain both the designation of the locality against which the attack is to be conducted, and specifications concerning the quantity and types of munitions required (Attachment 1).
2. On the basis of this order, the regimental command issues a Preliminary Order (Attachment 2).
3. Following receipt of the general order, the regiment obtains from its division headquarters a detailed Operations Order. An example of such an order is given as follows:

Operations Order

a. General Situation

- 1) In the latter part of the past week the enemy pushed back our troops which are located in the hinterland on the opposite bank of the Sava River near the stone bridge, in the sector near Velika Gorica.
- 2) The enemy Air Force has been very active in the past few days. Groups of 30 PE-2 bombers attacked the rear communications of our front line troops. YAK-9 fighter planes which support the bombers, carry out patrol duties with regard to their troops at the front and in areas where reserve units are mobilized.
- 3) Enemy anti-aircraft defense battalions (PAO), anti-aircraft artillery battalions armed with low caliber guns (APA), anti-aircraft machine-guns of medium caliber (SPA), and anti-aircraft artillery battalions with guns of high caliber (VPA) protect their front lines.
- 4) In order to ensure an advance, the enemy transports troops to the front by rail, as well as cannons, tanks, trucks and technical supplies. These are loaded on railroad cars departing from the Celje railroad station.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1A

2

- 5) Weather forecast: cloudiness 3/10, cloud altitude 2,000 meters, visibility 30 kilometers, strength of wind 3 kilometers per hour.

b. Our Front Positions

- 1) In the latter part of the past week the enemy attempted to cut our front line, and pushed back our forces toward the opposite bank of the Sava River, in the direction of the airport, across the stone bridge at Velika Gorica. Reinforcements are being forwarded by our rear echelon forces to the front area in preparation for an attack for the conquest of objectives beyond the enemy outposts.
- 2) Our aircraft stands in support of our rear echelon forces, and has successfully carried out attacks on enemy positions and their nearest lines of communication. The enemy Air Force is based at the following airports, and the number of aircraft is listed as follows:

Celje	:	32 YAK-9
Maribor	:	42 IL-2
Varazdin	:	32 PE-2
Koprivnica	:	40 IL-2
Krizevci	:	36 YAK-3

Our Air Force will cover the airfield along the front line, and our anti-aircraft defense units (PAO) will cover the frontier and the immediate surrounding area.

- 3) Orders have been issued to this division to bomb enemy concentrations on the front line highway communications and troop and materiel transports departing from the Celje station to the front.
 - a) The 96 Air Regiment is to bomb the zone indicated, in groups of twelve IL-2 aircraft, and to pound vital technical targets of the Celje railroad station between 630 and 840 a.m.
 - b) The 111 Air Regiment is to attack the enemy tank concentrations, the rear-echelon and artillery positions in the Pusce Bistra area between 7 and 730 a.m.
 - c) The 138 Air Regiment is to stand by, with groups of two heavy aircraft at its air base, ready for action.
- 4) Planes of the 44 Air Pursuit Division will fall into a single line formation and organize under the united command. The code for pursuit is Vrabac 3, and the code for assault is Jastreb 5. The radio wave length is 333 Kcs.
- 5) I will be located at the Town Command, and my code name will be Drava 332. Attacks against targets, the intervals, and the flight altitude over our own territory and over the front line will be established by me.
- 6) Upon completion of the air action a telegram is to be dispatched immediately, and a written report submitted within 40 minutes after landing.

Political Commissar
(Signature)

Division Commander
(Signature)

Chief Adjutant

Copies: Original to Divisional Command
96 Air Regiment
111 Air Regiment
138 Air Regiment

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 3 -

4. On the basis of the two orders issued by the division, the regiment commander prepares and established a time schedule in which the time element required to carry out the assignment is calculated and apportioned (Attachment 3). Following this a study is made of the operation, and the following documents prepared:

a. Situation Estimate

The information submitted by the intelligence officer serves as a basis for the following studies:

- 1) Topographic study of the locality to be attacked
- 2) Study of the potential strength of anti-aircraft artillery in this area.
- 3) Study of existing enemy airfields along the route of action.
- 4) Ground study along the entire route of action.
- 5) Remarks.
- 6) Determination of the route on the basis of the above studies. This document is prepared by the regiment commander in cooperation with the chief of staff headquarters of the regiment. It is written up by the operations officer in a single copy and remains with the headquarters command.

b. Assignments designated for the various section chiefs

- 1) To First Pilot, to compile meteorological bulletins in conjunction with the meteorological service of the VTB (technical battalion).
- 2) To Operations Officer, to furnish photographs of locality where action is to take place.
- 3) To Navigations Officer, to furnish orientation data, to indicate airfields to be used in the event of forced landing or loss of direction, and to advise on the use of munitions in connection with the importance of the targets.
- 4) To Armaments Officer (V.G.) to advise on the most desirable armament to be used, and to designate or appoint pilots for the various targets, as well as to indicate the characteristics of the planes and the best use of weapons.
- 5) To the Technical Officer, to give an account of the efficiency of the planes and the motors.
- 6) To the Commander of the technical battalion (VTA), to report on the available supplies of fuel, lubricants, bombs and munitions, and to establish the rate of consumption.
- 7) To the Assistant Political Commissar, to report on the security and loyalty of the personnel taking part in the action, in order to avoid the possibility of desertions.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1A

- 4 -

c. Decisions in Writing

As a result of the reports submitted by the section chiefs, the regiment commander determines the following:

- Take-off schedules
- Route
- Quota (sic)
- Squadron command
- Flight and action formations
- Functions of the various squadrons
- Rules whereby the escorting pursuit planes are to be met
- Various code names and land positions
- Behavior vis a vis the anti-aircraft artillery

d. Order for War Action

The order for war action is issued in writing to the various commanders, and lists the various tasks assigned. Oral briefing is given to squadron commanders exclusively. Following this, written battle orders are forwarded to the squadron commanders, and they in turn summon the pilots and furnish them with data for action.

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